

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : 25X1A9a

DATE: 31 January 1951

FROM : [REDACTED] Csh 25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Foreign Service Economic Reporting

The Executive Order "Prescribing Regulations Governing Foreign Service Reporting Functions" gives the Department of State clear authority to regulate the volume of reporting demands placed upon foreign posts by various requesting agencies. This authority is to be exercised "after consultation with other interested Federal departments and agencies."

While it may appear that the interests of CIA and other agencies might be slighted under a directive giving the Department of State final authority to control the reporting demands placed upon the Foreign Service, the procedure provided by the Executive Order is probably the best solution. The Department of State is required to consult with other interested agencies in both the selection of types of foreign data to be obtained through the Foreign Service and the standards to govern the approval of requests for foreign data. This procedure provides in some measure a safeguard for the interests of CIA and other agencies and at the same time reduces the demands upon the limited facilities of the Foreign Service.

The "Survey of Foreign Service Economic Reporting," prepared by the Bureau of the Budget, contains four principal recommendations for improvement of Foreign Service economic reporting. These recommendations reflect the suggestions of CIA economic and commodity specialists who assisted the Bureau of the Budget in its survey. If these recommendations are carried out, Foreign Service economic reporting will be greatly improved.

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concur.